

**From:** Rigel, Linda  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello:

I am just a citizen, not affiliated with any company with an interest in the Microsoft anti-trust settlement. I am a medical transcriptionist for a hospital diagnostic department.

I want to urge the Court to impose sanctions designed to break Microsoft's power in the marketplace that derives from its monopoly. In all that I've read about this case, no one has mentioned the following:

Before the big build up in internet applications and the technology advancements of the late 1990s, "innovation" in that marketplace had been all but murdered by Microsoft. I remember reading articles about the fact that companies could get no investment capital if the product they were designing could in any way be made by Microsoft.

Do you remember "vaporware"? When a company Microsoft perceived as a competitor announced a new product, Microsoft would announce that they, too, were bringing out a product just like that. Investment money for the competition would dry up. Oddly enough, in many cases, Microsoft never did make the product: hence the name vaporware.

The first question a venture capitalist would ask a candidate for its money was: Is Microsoft doing this?

When the Justice Department initiated its anti-trust action against Microsoft, that is when the great innovative explosion of the late 1990s began. It would be a terrible thing to let go this vicious thing that has been, if not subdued, at least put on a leash these past few years.

Linda Rigel